

WILHELMINA BARTH.

JUNE 14, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2171.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2171) granting a pension to Wilhelmina Barth, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to pension at \$12 per month Wilhelmina Barth, of Bloomington, Ind.

The soldier, Theodore Barth, served as private in Company I, Tenth Indiana Cavalry, from December 2, 1863, to August 31, 1865, when he was honorably discharged.

This claimant is the dependent mother of the soldier, is 79 years of age, and her husband is over 80 years of age, and both are very feeble and hardly able to move about. They have no property except a little house in Bloomington, worth about \$400 at a liberal estimate. They have no one upon whom they can depend for support.

The records furnish no evidence of any disease or disability during his service.

Soldier never filed any claim for pension. March 30, 1887, the mother filed a claim under the general law alleging that her son while in service incurred chronic diarrhea, disease of heart, and consumption that he came home completely broken down, almost a total wreck, unable to do any kind of work; that he stayed with her and his father (whom claimant was and still is supporting) until the fall of 1868, all the time suffering from said diseases, and that in the fall of 1868 he started west and told her that if he regained his health he would write to her, but if he did not she would never hear from him again. She got a letter from him in 1870, dated at Kit Carson, Colo. That since then she has never heard from him and believes him dead.

She was called on for the evidence necessary to establish her claims, but never responded to the call.

August 2, 1890, she filed a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, and was called on for the evidence necessary to establish that claim. She has never responded to that call.

Your committee is satisfied from the evidence that the soldier is dead, as he has never applied for a pension and has not been heard from for many years.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 4, after the word "roll," insert "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

In line 7 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twelve."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Wilhelmina Barth."

I am personally acquainted with Mrs. Wilhelmina Barth and her husband, August Barth. She is 79 years old, and her husband is more than 80 years old and very feeble. He is a constant care, and by reason of her old age she is unable to render the attention that he should have. They have no children except one daughter, who is married and has the care of her own family. These two old people have no property except a little house in Bloomington, Ind., worth not over \$400 at a liberal estimate, that furnishes them a home but no income. The soldier was their only son. He left Bloomington in poor health by reason of disease incurred while in the service, and has not been heard of since 1870, although the parents have advertised and offered a reward for any information. The soldier has never made an application for a pension. This, with the legal presumption, satisfactorily establishes his death. No one has ever applied for a pension on his account, which presumptively establishes the fact that he left no widow or children. This old mother has supported herself and the soldier's father as long as she is able to do so. Now, a just Government should furnish her a small pension for their support during the remainder of their days in lieu of their only son, who would now be supporting them if he had not given his life for his country.

ROBERT W. MIERS.

STATE OF INDIANA, *County of Monroe, ss:*

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for said county and State, this 17th day of March, 1897, Mrs. Wilhelmina Barth, age 79 years, post-office, Bloomington, Ind., who, being sworn according to law, states as follows:

That she is the mother of Theodore Barth, who enlisted in Company I, Tenth Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, on the 22d day of December, 1863, was discharged the 31st day of August, 1865, at Vicksburg, Miss.; that his discharge paper is now in her possession; that the father of said soldier, August Barth, is now living, being 86 years of age; that she applied for a pension as the mother of said soldier several years ago, number of said claim 352488; that she was unable to furnish sufficient proof to obtain an allowance of said claim for the following reason: That she was unable to prove the date and cause of death of said soldier; that she was dependent for her support upon said soldier at the time of his enlistment and afterwards; that the only property of which she is now possessed is a small house and lot worth about \$400; that said soldier never was married; that about 1868 he went West, and that the last time that we ever heard from or of him was March, 1870, and that although reward was offered and frequent inquiries made no trace of him has ever been had since that date; that she is dependent upon others not legally bound for her support; that she asks that she be granted a pension, as the mother of said soldier, by special act of Congress.

WILHELMINA BARTH

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1897.

Witness my hand and notarial seal.

[SEAL.]

CHAS. E. WALKER, *Notary Public.*

I know the above facts to be true.

AUGUST KRUEGER.
AUGUST BARTH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1897.

[SEAL.]

CHAS. E. WALKER, *Notary Public.*